Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service

Farm Facts

USDA

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In This Issue:

Cotton and Soybeans Benefit from August Rains

August rains aided growth and development of the state's soybean and cotton crops, but dry conditions in the major tobacco producing areas caused a reduction in yield potential for the burley crop. Many areas across the State, especially in the eastern third, have been under severe stress from the lack of moisture. Crops, pastures, and livestock have all been negatively impacted by the hot, dry weather that has plagued this part of the state. Rains the last half of August in the middle and western portions of the state, however, increased the prospects for soybeans and will likely improve the quality and quantity of the cotton crop. According to a September 1 Yield Survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, yields improved from the previous month's forecast for soybeans and cotton, but declined for corn and burley tobacco. The September survey collects farmers' expectations of final yields assuming normal weather conditions through harvest and showed the following results: **Cotton**, 660 pounds of lint per acre, down 103 pounds from 2001; **Corn,** 106 bushels per acre, down 26 bushels from the previous year; **Soybeans,** 30 bushels per acre, 4 bushels less than a year ago; and **Burley Tobacco,** 1,800 pounds per acre, 200 pounds below last year and the lowest since 1998. Other tobacco types are forecast at: **Type 22**, 2,900 pounds; **Type 23**, 3,100 pounds; and **Type 35**, 2,500 pounds per acre, all down from 2001.

Cotton Forecast Up from Last Month

Cotton production is forecast at 770,000 bales, 10,000 more bales than last month, but 21 percent below the previous year's record production. Yield is forecast at 660 pounds, 9 pounds better than the August forecast, but 103 pounds less than a year ago. Most cotton counties have received excellent amounts of rainfall during August which should add to expected crop yield and improve quality. However, a few areas experienced only widely, scattered showers, which has hindered normal boll development. The crop was rated in mostly good condition with defoliation underway during the first week of September. Harvest had begun on a limited scale by mid-month.

State's Corn Yields Down

Tennessee's corn yield is forecast at 106 bushels per acre, down 26 bushels from last year's record high and 4 bushels below the August forecast. Corn production is forecast at 65.7 million bushels from 620,000 acres. Although planting of this year's corn crop got underway on time, development was slowed due to unseasonable cool, wet weather this spring. The crop has suffered difficulties with insects, unfavorable weather conditions, and flooding along the Mississippi River. During the months of June and July, crop development progressed ahead of the normal pace with only a few problems reported. Seventy-eight percent of the acreage had been harvested by September 22nd, ahead of last year and the 5-year average.

Soybean Production Down Six Percent from 2001

The State's soybean production from 1.12 million acres is expected to total 33.6 million bushels, down 6 percent from last year. The average soybean yield is forecast at 30 bushels per acre, up a bushel from the August forecast, but down 4 bushels from 2001. Despite the extremely hot, dry beginning to August, the crop has received some relief from summer showers later in the month which aided growth and development. Producers have experienced only light to moderate insect pressure this summer. The crop was rated in fair to good condition with nearly half of the acreage dropping leaves through the third week of September.

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Burley Production Lowest Since 1941

Tennessee's burley tobacco growers expect to produce 54.0 million pounds, down 10,000 pounds from last year and if realized, the lowest production since 1941. The average yield is forecast at 1,800 pounds per acre from 30,000 acres. The State's burley tobacco crop has experienced a mixed bag of development during the growing season. Some areas received timely rainfall at the optimum time. Unfortunately, the top producing areas in Middle and East Tennessee have seen infrequent widely scattered showers. Crop condition has ranged from good to very poor in the same vicinity within a county. Based on results from the September 1 survey, prospects of yields being at last year's level are not favorable at this time. Yields per acre are forecast at 2,900 pounds for Type 22; 3,100 pounds for Type 23; and 2,500 pounds for Type 35, all unchanged from the August forecast, but down from last year.

Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, September 1, 2002, with Comparisons

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2001	Indicated 2002	2001	Indicated 2002	2001	Indicated 2002
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
Tennessee							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,000	8,000
Corn for grain	bu.	620	620	132	106	81,840	65,720
Cotton[1]	lb.	615	560	763	660	978	770
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,100	2,050	2.20	2.10	4,620	4,305
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	3,700	4,000
Soybeans	bu.	1,050	1,120	34.0	30.0	35,700	33,600
Tobacco, All	lb.	39.69	35.90	2,189	1,977	86,893	70,990
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	6.5	5.0	3,000	2,900	19,500	14,500
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.52	.40	3,175	3,100	1,651	1,240
Burley (31)	lb.	32.0	30.0	2,000	1,800	64,000	54,000
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.67	.50	2,600	2,500	1,742	1,250
Winter Wheat	bu.	340	330	54.0	46.0	18,360	15,180
United States							
Apples	lb.	—	---	---	---	9,629,100	9,205,600
Corn for grain	bu.	68,808	70,541	138.2	125.4	9,506,840	8,848,529
Cotton[1]	lb.	13,827.7	12,891.4	705	675	20,302.8	18,134.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.92	76,437	77,976
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,441,400	2,531,700
Soybeans	bu.	73,000	71,799	39.6	37.0	2,890,572	2,655,819
Tobacco, All	lb.	432.40	435.50	2,293	2,037	991,519	886,973
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	9.80	7.50	3,135	2,900	30,720	21,750
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	3.62	2.80	3,419	3,271	12,377	9,160
Burley (31)	lb.	164.30	161.50	2,033	1,888	334,066	304,880
One-sucker (35)	lb.	3.42	2.70	2,821	2,581	9,648	6,970
Winter Wheat	bu.	31,295	29,764	43.5	38.9	1,361,479	1,158,710

[1] Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

REMINDER: All forecasts in this report are based on conditions about September 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.

U.S. Hog Breeding Herd Structure: **Larger Operations**

Account for Three Fourths of U.S. Pig Crop

The makeup of the U.S. hog breeding herd by size of operation has changed dramatically over the last 7 years. A brief summary of the changes in the makeup of the hog breeding herd and trends in its efficiency will follow. This information is being provided based on recent inquiries by the hog industry to the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The average number of pigs per year per breeding herd animal (includes sows, gilts, and boars) has increased from 10.3 in 1979 to 16.2 in 2001, a 57 percent increase. Only 29 percent of the increase was due to increased litter rates while 71 percent was attributed to the increase in the number of litters per sow per year and consequently, smaller breeding herd. The size of the U.S. breeding herd has declined 38 percent since 1979 while the pig crop has decreased only 2 percent

Operations with more than 5,000 head accounted for 75 percent of the pig crop in 2001, compared with only 27 percent in 1994, the first year of data for operations with more than 5,000 head). Conversely, operations with less than 5,000 head, accounted for 73 percent of the U.S. pig crop in 1994 and only 25 percent in 2001. Meanwhile, the number of hog operations with more than 5,000 head has grown from just under 1,000 in 1993 to slightly over 2,200 in 2001. The number of operations with less than 5,000 head has declined from 217,000 to below 79,000 during the same period.

The litter rate for operations with less than 5,000 head increased from 8.00 pigs to 8.49 pigs from 1994 to 2001, a six percent increase. The litter rate of operations with more than 5,000 head was 8.94 pigs in 2001 compared with 8.74 in 1994, a 2 percent increase. The relatively larger increase in litter rate for herds with less than 5,000 head is attributed to smaller, less efficient operations going out of business and a larger proportion of the pig crop coming from herds with 1,000 to 5,000 head.

The number of pigs per breeding animal per year for operations with less than 5,000 head increased from 13.43 pigs in 1997 to 15.05 in 2001, an increase of 1.6 pigs or 12 percent.

Operations with more than 5,000 head increased from 16.08 pigs to 16.59 pigs over the same period, an increase of .51 pigs or 3 percent (The first year of available data was 1997). Again, the greater increase in pigs per breeding animal for operations with less than 5,000 head is largely attributed to the loss of smaller, less efficient operations and an increase in the proportion of operations with 1,000 to 5,000 head.

The July 2002 **U.S. pig crop**, at 8.68 million head, was 2 percent more than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 980 thousand head, 2 percent above last year. The average pigs per litter for July decreased to 8.85, compared to 8.87 last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on August 1, 2002, was 5.95 million head, slightly below August 1, 2001. U.S. sows and gilts bred during July totaled 1.16 million head, up slightly from the previous year.

Monthly Record Highs for Beef and Red Meat Production

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.14 billion pounds in August, up 2 percent from the 4.06 billion pounds produced in August 2001.

Cattle slaughter totaled 3.21 million head, down 1 percent from August 2001. The average live weight was 1,259 pounds, up 31 pounds from August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 96,000 head, up 2 percent from August 2001. The average live weight was 288 pounds, down 15 pounds from August a year ago.

Hog kill totaled 8.54 million head, 2 percent above August 2001. The average live weight was 259 pounds, up 1 pound from August a year ago. Sheep slaughter totaled 264,600 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 126 pounds, down 11 pounds from August a year ago.

Forest Products 2001 Summary

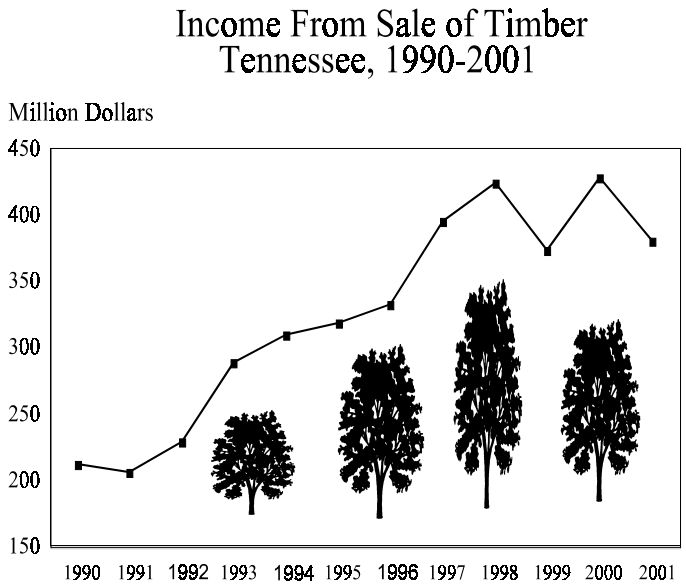
In 2001, Tennessee's forest resources produced sawlogs to manufacture approximately 887.5 million board feet of hardwood products (lumber, crossties, handle blanks, etc.) and approximately 184.7 million board feet of softwood lumber. This level of production continues to place Tennessee near the top among hardwood lumber producing States. In addition to sawlog production, Tennessee produced approximately 911,535 cords of hardwood pulpwood and approximately 966,142 cords of softwood pulpwood. The 1999 forest survey indicated that almost 55 percent of the total land area in Tennessee is forested, approximately 14.4 million acres. Nonindustrial private individuals own 11.0 million acres, the largest ownership category. The ten leading counties in timber volume and lumber production in 2000 were as follows:

Growing Stock Volume	Million Cu. Ft.
Cumberland	587.8
Wayne	573.9
Morgan	544.5
Monroe	528.3
Hickman	527.1
Scott	506.9
Campbell	480.2
Polk	426.4
Marion	409.4
Fentress	393.7

Lumber Production	Million Bd. Ft.
Hardeman	75.2
Macon	45.0
McNairy	39.9
Johnson	37.2
Henry	36.2
White	35.3
Wayne	30.0
Franklin	29.6
Hardin	29.4
Putnam	28.7

[1] Estimated.

Source: *Tennessee Forestry Division.*



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